

IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Steven L. Webb et al.

Confirmation No.: 6354

Application No.: 09/234,255

Examiner: Thomas J. Joseph

Filing Date: Jan. 20, 1999

Group Art Unit: 2174

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IMPROVING A PROGRESS MONITOR DURING A LONG COMPUTER PROCESS

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner For Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2003

Technology Center 2100

TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF

Sir:

Transmitted herewith in **triplicate** is the Appeal Brief in this application with respect to the Notice of Appeal filed on May 22, 2003.

The fee for filing this Appeal Brief is (37 CFR 1.17(c)) \$320.00.

(complete (a) or (b) as applicable)

The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) apply.

() (a) Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 (fees: 37 CFR 1.17(a)-(d) for the total number of months checked below:

() one month	\$110.00
() two months	\$410.00
() three months	\$930.00
() four months	\$1450.00

() The extension fee has already been filled in this application.

(X) (b) Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee for extension of time.

Please charge to Deposit Account **08-2025** the sum of \$320.00. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account 08-2025 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25. Additionally please charge any fees to Deposit Account 08-2025 under 37 CFR 1.16 through 1.21 inclusive, and any other sections in Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations that may regulate fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

(X) I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. Date of Deposit: July 8, 2003

OR

() I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office facsimile number _____ on _____

Number of pages: _____

Typed Name: Michael A. Goodwin, Esq.

Signature: _____

Respectfully submitted,

Steven L. Webb et al

By _____

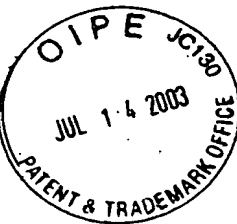
Michael A. Goodwin, Esq.

Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. **32,697**

Date: **July 8, 2003**

Telephone No.: **(303) 298-9888**

AF/2174
\$
SC
#20
7/18/03



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT
APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2003

Technology Center 2100

In Re Application of :)
Steven L. Webb et al.)
Serial No.: 09/234,255) Group Art Unit: 2174
Filed: January 20, 1999) Examiner: Thomas J. Joseph
For: METHOD AND)
APPARATUS FOR)
IMPROVING A PROGRESS) Atty Dkt. 10980134-1
MONITOR DURING A)
LONG COMPUTER)
PROCESS)

APPEAL BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Appeal Brief is submitted in response to the final rejection of the claims mailed February 27, 2003. A Notice of Appeal was filed on May 28, 2003.

(1) REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest in the above-referenced patent application is Hewlett-Packard Development Company, LP, a limited partnership established under the laws of the State of Texas and having a principal place of business at 20555 S.H. 249 Houston, TX 77070, U.S.A. (hereinafter "HPDC"). HPDC is a Texas limited partnership and is a wholly-owned affiliate of Hewlett-Packard Company, a Delaware Corporation, headquartered in Palo Alto, CA. The general or managing partner of HPDC is HPQ Holdings, LLC.

(2) RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals or interferences currently known to appellants, appellants' legal representatives or the assignee, which will directly affect, or be directly affected by, or have a bearing on, the Board's decision.

(3) STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 were originally filed with the application and these claims remain pending at the current time. Claims 1-10 stand rejected in the final Office action mailed February 27, 2003. The rejection of claims 1-10 is appealed.

(4) STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

Appellants filed an amendment under 37 CFR §1.116 on April 25, 2003. This amendment was denied entry by the Examiner in an Advisory Action mailed May 6, 2003. Appellants filed a second amendment under 37 CFR §1.116 on May 28, 2003, in order to address an objection raised by the Examiner in the final Office action and to correct a minor typographical error appearing in claim 10. In an Advisory Action mailed June 20, 2003, the Examiner indicated that this second amendment would be entered for purposes of appeal. Other than as described above, no amendments were filed or entered subsequent to the final Office action mailed February 27, 2003.

(5) SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates generally to a progress monitor and more specifically to a progress monitor that can uncover or reveal information during the movement of the progress bar (page 3, lines 15-17 and claims 1 and 10). A progress monitor typically measures a process by visually indicating how much of the process has been completed. When the process starts, the progress monitor typically shows a progress area of a uniform shade or color. As the process progresses, the progress monitor shows the progress of the process by changing the color or shade of the progress area of the progress monitor in proportion to the

amount of completion of the process being monitored (page 2, lines 8-16). For example, when a process is 30% completed, the progress monitor would have 30% of the progress area in a new shade or color with the remaining 70% in the original shade or color (page 4, lines 22-25 and page 5, lines 1-4). In this invention, information is uncovered or revealed as the progress bar changes in response to the progress of the process being monitored (page 3, lines 15-17, claims 1 and 10). The progress area of the progress monitor may be shaped as a rectangle (page 2, lines 5-8, claim 2). The motion used to indicate progress may be linear or may be angular (page 4, lines 12-15, claims 8 and 9).

(6) ISSUES

- A. Whether claims 1-6 and 8-10 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Marks U.S. Patent 6,097,390 and Nielsen U.S. Patent 6,337,699.
- B. Whether claim 7 is unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Marks and Nielsen, as applied to claim 1 and further in view of MS Outlook 97.

(7) GROUPING OF CLAIMS

Dependent claims 2, 5, 6, 8 and 9 stand or fall with independent claim 1. None of the other claims stand or fall together.

(8) ARGUMENT

Relevant Law

Legal Basis for Obviousness Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The test for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103 is whether the claimed invention would have been obvious to those skilled in the art in light of the knowledge made available by the reference or references. *In re Donovan*, 184 USPQ 414, 420, n. 3 (CCPA 1975). It requires consideration of the entirety of the disclosures of the references. *In re Rinehart*, 189 USPQ 143, 146 (CCPA 1976). All limitations of the Claims must be considered. *In re Boe*, 184 USPQ 38, 40 (CCPA 1974). In making a determination as to obviousness, the references must be read without benefit of applicants' teachings. *In re Meng*, 181 USPQ 94, 97 (CCPA 1974). In addition, the propriety of a Section 103 rejection is to be determined by whether the reference teachings appear to be sufficient for one of ordinary skill in the relevant art having the references before him to make the proposed substitution, combination,

or other modifications. *In re Lintner*, 173 USPQ 560, 562 (CCPA 1972).

In the case of *In re Wright*, 6 USPQ 2d 1959 (CAFC 1988), the CAFC decided that the Patent Office had improperly combined references which did not suggest the properties and results of the applicants' invention nor suggest the claimed combination as a solution to the problem which applicants' invention solved.

The CCPA reached this conclusion after an analysis of the prior case law, at p. 1961:

We repeat the mandate of 35 U.S.C. 103: it is the invention as a whole that must be considered in obviousness determinations. The invention as a whole embraces the structure, its properties, and the problem it solves. See, e.g., *Cable Electric Products, Inc. v. Genmark, Inc.*, 770 F.2d 1015, 1025, 226 USPQ 881, 886 (Fed. Cir. 1985) ("In evaluating obviousness, the hypothetical person of ordinary skill in the pertinent art is presumed to have the 'ability to select and utilize knowledge from other arts reasonably pertinent to [the] particular problem' to which the invention is directed"), quoting *In re Antle*, 444 F.2d 1168, 1171-72, 170 USPQ 285, 287-88 (CCPA 1971); *In re Antonie*, 559 F.2d 618, 619, 195 USPQ 6, 8 (CCPA 1977) ("In delineating the invention as a whole, we look not only in the claim in question... but also to those properties of the subject matter which are inherent in the subject matter and are disclosed in the specification") (emphasis in original).

The determination of whether a novel structure is or is not "obvious" requires cognizance of the properties of that structure and the problem which it solves, viewed in light of the teachings of the prior art. See, e.g., *In re*

Rinehart, 531 F.2d 1048, 1054, 189 USPQ 143, 149 (CCPA 1976) (the particular problem facing the inventor must be considered in determining obviousness); see also *Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist and Derrick Co.*, 730 F.2d 1452, 1462, 221 USPQ 481, 488 (Fed. Cir. 1984) (it is error to focus "solely on the product created, rather than on the obviousness or notoriousness of its creation") (quoting *General Motors Corp. v. U.S. Int'l Trade Comm'n*, 687 F.2d 476, 483, 215 USPQ 484, 489 (CCPA 1982), cert. denied, 459 U.S. 1105 (1983)).

Thus the question is whether what the inventor did would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art attempting to solve the problem upon which the inventor was working. *Rinehart*, 531 F.2d at 1054, 189 USPQ at 149; see also *In re Benno*, 768 F.2d 1340, 1345, 226 USPQ 683, 687 (Fed. Cir. 1985) ("appellant's problem" and the prior art present different problems requiring different solutions").

A basic mandate inherent in Section 103 is that a piecemeal reconstruction of prior art patents shall not be the basis for a holding of obviousness. It is impermissible within the framework of Section 103 to pick and choose from any one reference only so much of it as will support a given position, to the exclusion of other parts necessary to the full appreciation of what such reference fairly suggests to one of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Kamm*, 172 USPQ 298, 301-302 (CCPA 1972). Phrased somewhat differently, the fact that inventions of the references and of applicants may be directed to concepts for solving the same problem does not serve as a basis for arbitrarily choosing elements

from references to attempt to fashion applicants' claimed invention. *In re Donovan*, 184 USPQ 414, 420 (CCPA 1975).

It is also clearly established in the case law that a change in the mode of operation of a device which renders that device inoperative for its stated utility as set forth in the cited reference renders the reference improper for use to support an obviousness-type rejection predicated on such a change. See, e.g., *Diamond International Corp. v. Walterhoefer*, 289 F.Supp. 550, 159 USPQ 452, 460-61 (D.Md. 1968); *Ex parte Weber*, 154 USPQ 491, 492 (Bd.App. 1967). In addition, any attempt to combine the teaching of one reference with that of another in such a manner as to render the invention of the first reference inoperative is not permissible. See, e.g., *Ex parte Hartmann*, 186 USPQ 366 (Bd.App. 1974); and *Ex parte Sternau*, 155 USPQ 733 (Bd.App. 1967).

A reference which teaches away from the applicants' invention may not properly be used in framing a 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection of applicants' claims. See *United States v. Adams*, 148 USPQ 429 (Sup. Ct. 1966).

Serial No. 09/234,255
Art Unit 2174
Atty Dkt. 10980134-1

Argument re Issue A

Claims 1-6 and 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Marks U.S. Patent 6,097,390 and Nielsen U.S. Patent 6,337,699.

It is submitted that claims 1-6 and 8-10 are not unpatentable over Marks and Nielsen and that, further, the invention recited by claims 1-6 and 8-10 is not disclosed or suggested by any of the prior art of record, considered either alone or in proper combination.

At the outset, it is noted that the heading of the Examiner's rejection only lists claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8 and 10 (see page 2 of the final Office action mailed February 27, 2003). Since, however, the Examiner also discusses claims 3, 4 and 9 in the body of the rejection (on pages 3 and 4 of the final Office action) appellants assume that the Examiner intended to reject claims 1-6 and 8-10 and not only claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8 and 10 and have formulated the present appeal brief based on this assumption.

Claims 1-6, 8 and 9

Appellants' claim 1 recites the following:

A progress monitor comprising:
a progress area used to indicate the progress of a process being monitored;
a progress indicator that progressively divides the progress area into a first part of the progress area and a second part of the progress area, where the first part of the progress area corresponds to the amount of completion of the process being monitored;
information, in addition to the progress of the process, progressively becoming visible in the first part of the progress area as the first part of the progress area becomes larger.

Claim 1 recites the following:

information ... progressively becoming visible in the first part of the progress area

The Examiner takes the position that Marks discloses this recitation. More specifically, the Examiner, with reference to Fig. 3 of Marks, states the following on page 2 of the final Office action:

Marks teaches an indicator within the display bar designated for tracking progress (fig. 3 col. 3, lines 10 - 14). The area located left of the said indicator is used for tracking completion.

Appellants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position. Referring to Fig. 3 of Marks, it can be appreciated that the area located to the left of the indicator (i.e., the darkened bar portion), by itself, can convey no information whatsoever regarding the degree of completion of the process. Rather, it is only by observing the *relationship between the left side and the right side* that a viewer can determine the relative amount of progress of the process being performed. In other words, the size of the left side relative to the right side (or relative to the entire length of the left side plus the right side combined) conveys to a viewer the relative amount of progress of the process in Marks. The left side, by itself, however, would convey no information whatsoever.

This is in contrast to appellants' claim 1 which recites **"information ... progressively becoming visible in the first part of the progress area"**. Appellants disclose such information becoming progressively visible in the first part of the progress area, for example, with reference to appellants' Fig. 2 where information (e.g., text in the exemplary embodiment) is shown progressively becoming visible in the first part of the progress area. Clearly, Marks fails to disclose or suggest **"information ... progressively becoming visible in the first part of the progress area"** in this manner.

Claim 1 further recites the following:

information, **in addition to the progress of the process**,
progressively becoming visible in the first part of the progress
area

Claim 1, thus, requires information, *in addition to the progress of the process*, progressively becoming visible. Although, as discussed above, Marks may generally disclose progress indicators that indicate the progress of a process, Marks clearly does not disclose or suggest the display of information *in addition to the progress of the process* as recited in claim 1. Marks further clearly does not disclose that such additional information progressively become visible.

The Examiner states the following on pages 3-4 of the Office action:

Marks further teaches information, in addition to the progress of the process, progressively becoming visible in the first part the progress area as the first part of the progress area becomes larger (fig. 3; col. 3, lines 10-14).

The Examiner, thus, advances the position that Marks does disclose the display of information in addition to the progress of the process. The Examiner points to Fig. 3 of Marks to support this position. Fig. 3 of Marks, however, merely shows a “prior art” bar-

type progress indicator in which a portion of a bar is darkened in proportion to the amount to which the process has progressed. The progress indicator of Marks Fig. 3 clearly does not show or suggest displaying any information *in addition* to the progress of the process.

The Examiner further points to col. 3, lines 10-14 of Marks to support the Examiner's position. This portion of Marks is reproduced below:

FIG. 3 is an illustration of an informational window that is used in prior-art computer systems to indicate the progress of a task;

FIGS. 4A-4C are depictions of several embodiments of pointer icons used in accordance with the

The above-reproduced portion of Marks, at most, discusses the use of a progress indicator to provide a graphical expression of the progress of a process being performed. This portion of Marks clearly does not support the Examiner's assertion that Marks discloses that information, *in addition to the progress of the process*, progressively becomes visible in the first part the progress area.

As set forth above, Marks does not disclose or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1. The Examiner states the following to explain why the secondary Nielsen reference is introduced:

Marks fails to teach areas containing information regarding the data being processed.

(final Office action, page 3)

Appellants find this statement to be somewhat confusing since claim 1 does not include a limitation directed to "areas containing information regarding the data being processed" as implied by the Examiner. The Examiner's rationale for citing the Nielsen reference, thus, is not entirely clear. In any event, for the reasons set forth below, appellants assert that Nielsen clearly fails to remedy the inadequacies of Marks as discussed above.

Nielsen discloses the following:

Display of an icon is modified to permit information about at least four independent multiple valued variables to be readily received by a viewer. Frequency of blinking, degree of blinking, color and degree of fill of interior space of an icon are used to represent variable information. Classification of e-mail by "importance" of originator, by priority and by due date is reflected in the icon display is illustrated in one example. In another, the percent of files changing since the last access is displayed using a folder icon.

(abstract)

Nielsen, thus, discloses display icons that can represent multiple variables to an observer. Nielsen does not, however, disclose or suggest a progress monitor and, thus, clearly does not disclose or

suggest the following limitation of appellants' claim 1 (which, as discussed above, is also not met by the Marks reference):

**information, in addition to the progress of the process,
progressively becoming visible in the first part of the progress
area**

Since, even the proposed combination of references fails to disclose or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1, the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to claim 1.

Appellants further respectfully assert that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established because there is no teaching or suggestion to combine the Marks and Nielsen references as proposed by the Examiner. "It is insufficient to establish obviousness that the separate elements of the invention existed in the prior art, absent some teaching or suggestion, in the prior art, to combine the elements." *Arkie Lures, Inc. v. Gene Larew Tackle, Inc.*, 119 F.3d 953, 957, 43 USPQ2d 1294, 1297 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

Claims 2-6, 8 and 9 are allowable at least as depending from allowable base claim 1.

Claim 3 is allowable on further independent grounds in that neither Marks, Nielsen nor any of the other references of record,

considered either alone or in proper combination, disclose or suggest the progress monitor of claim 1 and further where:

the progress area is a half circle

In support of the rejection of claim 3, the Examiner points to Figs. 4a, 5a, 4c and 5c of Marks (see page 3 of the Office action). None of these figures, however, disclose or suggest a half circle as recited in claim 3.

Claim 4 is allowable on further independent grounds in that neither Marks, Nielsen nor any of the other references of record, considered either alone or in proper combination, disclose or suggest the progress monitor of claim 1 and further where:

the progress area is a half ellipse

In support of the rejection of claim 4, the Examiner points to Figs. 4a, 5a, 4c and 5c of Marks (see page 3 of the Office action). None of these figures, however, disclose or suggest a half ellipse as recited in claim 4.

Claim 10

Appellants' claim 10 recites the following:

A method of revealing information by a progress monitor during the monitoring of a process comprising the steps of:

- a) defining a progress area;
- b) dividing the progress area into a first part and a second part where the first part of the progress area corresponds to the amount of completion of the process being monitored;
- c) moving the dividing point between the first part and the second part of the progress area as the process progresses
- d) progressively revealing information in the first part of the progress area, as the first part of the progress area becomes larger;
- e) repeating steps c and d until the process being monitored has been completed.

Claim 10 recites the following:

progressively revealing information in the first part of the progress area, as the first part of the progress area becomes larger

In a manner similar to that advanced above, with respect to the rejection of claim 1, appellants respectfully assert that Marks fails to disclose “progressively revealing information in the first part of the progress area”. With reference, for example, to Fig. 3 of Marks, it can be appreciated that the area located to the left of the indicator (i.e., the darkened bar portion in Fig. 3), by itself, can convey no information whatsoever regarding the degree of completion of the process. Rather, it is only by observing the relationship between the left side and right side that a viewer can determine the relative amount of progress of the process being performed. In other words, the size of the left side relative to the right side (or relative to the entire length of the left side plus the right side combined) conveys to a viewer the relative amount of progress of the process in Marks. The left side, by itself, however, would convey no information whatsoever.

This is in contrast to appellants’ claim 10 which recites “progressively revealing information in the first part of the progress area”. Appellants disclose such information being progressively revealed in the first part of the progress area, for example, with reference to appellants’ Fig. 2 where information (e.g., text in the exemplary embodiment) is shown progressively being revealed in the

first part of the progress area. Clearly, Marks fails to disclose or suggest "progressively revealing information in the first part of the progress area" in this manner.

As set forth above, Marks does not disclose or suggest all of the limitations of claim 10. Clearly, Nielsen fails to remedy the inadequacies of Marks. Since the proposed combination of references fails to disclose or suggest all of the limitations of claim 10, the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to claim 10.

Appellants further respectfully assert that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness because there is no teaching or suggestion to combine the Marks and Nielsen references as proposed by the Examiner. "It is insufficient to establish obviousness that the separate elements of the invention existed in the prior art, absent some teaching or suggestion, in the prior art, to combine the elements." *Arkie Lures, Inc. v. Gene Larew Tackle, Inc.*, 119 F.3d 953, 957, 43 USPQ2d 1294, 1297 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

Argument re Issue B

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Marks U.S. Patent 6,097,390 and Nielsen U.S. Patent 6,337,699, as applied to claim 1, and further in view of MS Outlook 97.

It is submitted that claim 7 is not unpatentable over Marks, Nielsen and MS Outlook 97 and that, further, the invention recited by claim 7 is not disclosed or suggested by any of the prior art of record, considered either alone or in proper combination.

Claim 7 is allowable at least as depending from allowable base claim 1.

Claim 7 is allowable on further independent grounds in that neither Marks, Nielsen, MS Outlook 97 nor any of the other references of record, considered either alone or in proper combination, disclose or suggest the progress monitor of claim 1 and further where:

the information becoming visible is the next line of text in a story.

Appellants respectfully assert that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to claim 7 because there is no teaching or suggestion to combine the Marks, Nielsen and MS Outlook 97 references as proposed by the Examiner. "It is insufficient to establish obviousness that the separate elements of

the invention existed in the prior art, absent some teaching or suggestion, in the prior art, to combine the elements." *Arkie Lures, Inc. v. Gene Larew Tackle, Inc.*, 119 F.3d 953, 957, 43 USPQ2d 1294, 1297 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

Appellants further assert that the Examiner's rejection is improper because even the (improper) combination of references proposed by the Examiner fails to disclose or suggest the invention of claim 7. The Examiner states the following on page 5 of the Office action in support of the rejection of claim 7:

Marks and Nielsen fail to teach any type of uncovering that is the next line of text in a story. MS Outlook calendar provides a scroll bar that allows for the progressing through a calendar wherein the user can view a history (p. 23).

The Examiner, thus, admits that Marks and Nielsen fail to disclose the limitations of claim 7 but asserts that the MS Outlook 97 reference makes up for this deficiency with reference to page 23 thereof. Appellants disagree with the Examiner's position for the following reasons.

Page 23 of the MS Outlook 97 reference generally discusses a scroll bar that allows a user to selectively view portions of a calendar page. The MS Outlook 97 reference clearly does not disclose or suggest a progress monitor in which information becoming visible is the next

Serial No. 09/234,255
Art Unit 2174
Atty Dkt. 10980134-1

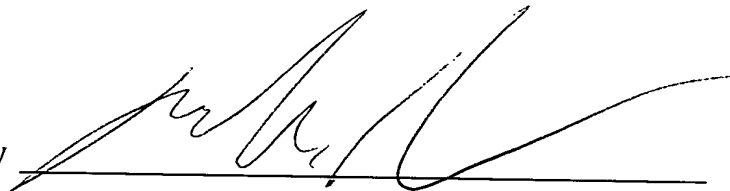
line of text in a story as recited in claim 7. Accordingly, since even the Examiner's proposed (improper, as discussed above) combination of references fails to teach all of the limitations of claim 7, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

Accordingly, all of the claims are believed to be allowable and all of the rejections should be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,

KLAAS, LAW, O'MEARA & MALKIN, P.C.

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael A. Goodwin', is written over a horizontal line.

Michael A. Goodwin
Registration No. 32,697
1999 Broadway, STE 2225
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 298-9888

(9) APPENDIX

- 1) A progress monitor comprising:
 - a progress area used to indicate the progress of a process being monitored;
 - a progress indicator that progressively divides the progress area into a first part of the progress area and a second part of the progress area, where the first part of the progress area corresponds to the amount of completion of the process being monitored;
 - information, in addition to the progress of the process, progressively becoming visible in the first part of the progress area as the first part of the progress area becomes larger.
- 2) The progress monitor of claim 1 where the progress area is a rectangle.
- 3) The progress monitor of claim 1 where the progress area is a half circle.
- 4) The progress monitor of claim 1 where the progress area is a half ellipse.

5) The progress area of claim 1 where the first part of the progress area is a first color and the second part of the progress area is a second color and the progress indicator is defined by the change in color between the first part of the progress area and the second part of the progress color.

6) The progress monitor of claim 1 where the progress indicator is a line dividing the first part of the progress area from the second part of the progress area.

7) The progress monitor of claim 1 where the information being uncovered is the next line of text in a story.

8) The progress monitor of claim 1 where the motion of the progress indicator is linear.

9) The progress monitor of claim 1 where the motion of the progress indicator is angular.

10) A method of revealing information by a progress monitor during the monitoring of a process comprising the steps of:

a) defining a progress area;

Serial No. 09/234,255
Art Unit 2174
Atty Dkt. 10980134-1

- b) dividing the progress area into a first part and a second part where the first part of the progress area corresponds to the amount of completion of the process being monitored;
- c) moving the dividing point between the first part and the second part of the progress area as the process progresses
- d) progressively revealing information in the first part of the progress area, as the first part of the progress area becomes larger;
- e) repeating steps c and d until the process being monitored has been completed.